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OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			EXAMINER GAMI, TEJAL	
			ART UNIT 2121	PAPER NUMBER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/801,006	Applicant(s) MASUYAMA ET AL.	
	Examiner TEJAL J. GAMI	Art Unit 2121	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 January 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-6 and 10-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-6 and 10-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is responsive to an AMENDMENT entered January 6, 2009 for the patent application 10/801006.

Status of Claims

2. Claims 1-18 were rejected in the last Office Action dated October 8, 2008.

As a response to October 8, 2008 office action, Applicant has Amended claims 1, 10, 12, and 18; and Cancelled claims 2 and 7-9.

Claims 1, 3-6 and 10-18 are now presented for examination in this office action.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The information disclosure statement filed 07/29/2004 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(1), which requires the following: (1) a list of all patents, publications, applications, or other information submitted for consideration by the Office; (2) U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications listed in a section separately from citations of other documents; (3) the application number of the application in which the information disclosure statement is being submitted on each page of the list; **(4) a column that provides a blank space next to each document to be considered, for the examiner's initials**; and (5) a heading that clearly indicates that the list is an information disclosure statement. The information disclosure statement has been

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placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claim 18 is rejected as a single claim which claims both an apparatus and the method steps of using the apparatus is indefinite under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. (IPXL Holdings v. Amazon.com, Inc., 430 F.2d 1377, 1384, 77 USPQ2d 1140, 1145 (Fed. Cir. 2005)); Ex parte Lyell, 17 USPQ2d 1548 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1990) (claim directed to an automatic transmission workstand and the method of using it, held ambiguous and properly rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

6. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

7. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 based on the theory that the claim is directed to neither a “process” nor a “machine,” but rather embraces or overlaps two

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different statutory classes of invention set forth in 35 U.S.C. 101 which is drafted so as to set forth the statutory classes of invention in the alternative only.

Examiner Notes

8. Claims 1, 3-6, and 10-16 are apparatus claims, and patentability of apparatus claims depends on the structure, not on the use or purpose of that structure; see Catalina, 62 USPQ2d at 1785. Apparatus claims must be structurally distinguishable from the prior art; see MPEP 2114. While features of an apparatus may be recited either structurally or functionally, claims directed to an apparatus must be distinguished from the prior art in terms of structure rather than function. In re Schreiber, 128 F.3d 1473, 1477-78, 44 USPQ2d 1429, 1431-32 (Fed. Cir. 1997) (The absence of a disclosure in a prior art reference relating to function did not defeat the Board's finding of anticipation of claimed apparatus because the limitations at issue were found to be inherent in the prior art reference); see also In re Swinehart, 439 F.2d 210, 212-13, 169 USPQ 226, 228-29 (CCPA 1971); In re Danly, 263 F.2d 844, 847, 120 USPQ 528, 531 (CCPA 1959). "[A]pparatus claims cover what a device is, not what a device does." Hewlett-Packard Co. v. Bausch & Lomb Inc., 909 F.2d 1464, 1469, 15 USPQ2d 1525, 1528 (Fed. Cir. 1990) (emphasis in original).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

9. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

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A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

10. Claims 1, 3-6, 10-16, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ogura et al. (U.S. Publication Number: 2002/0010854).

As to independent claim 1, Ogura discloses an image forming apparatus (e.g., image forming device 1 through 5) including hardware resources comprising a least a plotter (e.g., plotter 306) configured to form an image and software configured to control the hardware resources to form an image (e.g., image-forming-device management system) (see Paragraph [0383] and [0395]), the image forming apparatus comprising:

a display unit (e.g., display device) (see Paragraph [0018]);

a display information controlling unit (e.g. operation display unit) configured to control information displayed on said display unit (see Paragraph [0095]);

an interface unit (e.g., personal interface unit 18 included in the control unit of each image-forming device; and image-forming device interface 45 is an interface circuit that manages serial communication between the data communication device 7 and the image-forming-devices 1 through 5) (see Paragraph [0042], [0106] and Figure 2) configured to provide a detachable physical connection (e.g. network control unit NCU connects/disconnects lines) (see Paragraph [0013]) with an external apparatus on which an application is implemented (e.g., originating/terminating function) (see Paragraph [0106] and [0134]);

a control unit (e.g., serial communication control unit 28) configured to control said interface unit and provide a logical connection with the external apparatus (e.g.,

connected to the data communication device 7 and the personal interfaces 18 of other image-forming devices) (see Paragraph [0084] and [0093]);

a relay unit (e.g., CPU) configured to relay between the application and the software (e.g., controls communication between the data communication device and a plurality of the image-forming devices 1 through 5 by following a control program) (see Paragraph [0102] and [0209]), said relaying unit (e.g., CPU) notifying said display information controlling unit of a display (e.g., operation display unit) (see Paragraph [0275]) that is to be presented on said display unit to indicate ongoing initialization of the application at the external apparatus (e.g., initialization process..text data) (see Paragraph [0227], [0364] and Figure 11) until the application becomes operational when an input is received from a user attempting to use the application (e.g., user-request) (see Paragraph [0275]); and

a registering unit (e.g., transmission-time setting register) (see Paragraph [0212]) configured to register an ID of the application in the software (e.g., ID code) (see Paragraph [0211]) during the initialization of the application (e.g., startup) (see Paragraph [0213]-[0214]), and unregister the ID in the software when the external apparatus is disconnected from the interface unit (e.g., ID code is changed according to a direction of transmitting the text data..added or discarded) (see Paragraph [0148]).

As to independent claim 18, Ogura discloses a method of allowing an external application to be operated through an image forming apparatus (e.g., image forming device 1 through 5) having a display unit and hardware resources comprising at least a plotter (e.g., plotter 306) configured to form an image and software configured to control

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the hardware resources to form an image (e.g., image-forming-device management system) (see Paragraph [0383] and [0395]), the external application being implemented in an external apparatus connectable to the image forming apparatus (e.g., transmits image data for facsimile communication to an external facsimile device) (see Paragraph [0411] and [0417]), said method comprising:

connecting, detachably (e.g. network control unit NCU connects/disconnects lines) (see Paragraph [0013]), the external apparatus to the image forming apparatus (e.g., transmits image data for facsimile communication to an external facsimile device) (see Paragraph [0411] and [0417]);

preparing a display that indicates ongoing initialization of the application at the external apparatus until the application becomes operational (e.g., initialization process..text data) (see Paragraph [0227], [0364] and Figure 11);

registering (e.g., transmission-time setting register) (see Paragraph [0212]) an ID (e.g., ID code) (see Paragraph [0211]) of the application in the software during the initialization of the application (e.g., startup) (see Paragraph [0213]-[0214]);

presenting the display on the display unit (e.g., display unit) until the application becomes operational in response to an attempt by a user to use the application (e.g., user-request) (see Paragraph [0275]); and

unregistering the ID in the software when the external apparatus is disconnected from the image forming apparatus (e.g., ID code is changed according to a direction of transmitting the text data..added or discarded) (see Paragraph [0148]).

As to dependent claim 3, Ogura teaches the image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said control unit notifies said relay unit that no communication is possible, in response to a physical or logical disconnection occurring with respect to the external apparatus (e.g., initializing signal indicating a condition in which the image-forming device is unable to receive data) (see Paragraph [0241]).

As to dependent claim 4, Ogura teaches the image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a starting unit configured to start said relay unit (e.g., initializing) (see Paragraph [0241]).

As to dependent claim 5, Ogura teaches the image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein said starting unit starts said relay unit after the external apparatus is physically connected (e.g., initializing) (see Paragraph [0241]).

As to dependent claim 6, Ogura teaches the image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein said starting unit utilizes said control unit to check whether the external apparatus is physically connected (e.g., initializing) (see Paragraph [0241]).

As to dependent claim 10, Ogura teaches the image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein, when said registering unit unregisters the application (e.g., transmission-time setting register) (see Paragraph [0212]-[0214]), said display information controlling unit switches the information displayed on said display unit (e.g., operation display unit) to other information if the information displayed on said display unit is associated with the application (e.g., user-request) (see Paragraph [0275]).

As to dependent claim 11, Ogura teaches the image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein said other information is associated with the software (e.g., control program) (see Paragraph [0014]).

As to dependent claim 12, Ogura teaches the image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said registering unit is configured to register the application again if the external apparatus is reconnected after the application is unregistered (e.g., transmission-time setting register) (see Paragraph [0160]).

As to dependent claim 13, Ogura teaches the image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 4, further comprising a program unregistering unit which unregisters said relay unit by releasing a memory area in which a program of said relay unit is laid out (e.g., decides whether the RAM stores data related to the image-forming device) (see Paragraph [0159]).

As to dependent claim 14, Ogura teaches the image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein said relay unit, responding to a notice from said control unit indicating that no communication is possible, notifies said starting unit that the application is unregistered, and requests said program unregistering unit to unregister the application (e.g., initializing signal indicating a condition in which the image-forming device is unable to receive data) (see Paragraph [0241]).

As to dependent claim 15, Ogura teaches the image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein said relay unit (e.g., CPU) is restarted by said starting unit (e.g., startup) if the external apparatus is connected after said relay unit is unregistered (e.g., transmission-time setting register) (see Paragraph [0213]).

As to dependent claim 16, Ogura teaches the image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein said relay unit, responding to a notice from said control unit indicating that no communication is possible during execution of the application, notifies said display information controlling unit of a display that is to be presented on said display unit to indicate error occurrence (e.g., initializing signal indicating a condition in which the image-forming device is unable to receive data) (see Paragraph [0241]).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

11. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

12. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogura et al. (U.S. Publication Number: 2002/0010854) as applied to claim 3 above, and further in view of Kobata et al. (U.S. Patent Number: 7,051,003).

As to dependent claim 17, Ogura teaches the image forming apparatus (e.g., image-forming-device) (see Ogura: Abstract) as claimed in claim 3, but does not mention email. Kobata teaches further comprising an email sending unit (e.g., notification 62) (see Kobata: Col. 5, Lines 54-67), wherein said relay unit (e.g., sending system 14) (see Kobata: Col. 5, Lines 54-67), responding to a notice from said control unit indicating that no communication is possible during execution of the application (e.g., on-line availability) (see Kobata: Col. 5, Lines 54-67), instructs said email sending

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unit to send email indicative of error occurrence to a predetermined mail address (e.g., assured of the on-line availability) (see Kobata: Col. 5, Lines 54-67). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have utilized email as taught by Kobata to the image forming apparatus of Ogura because an e-mail message can serve as notification (see Kobata: Col. 5, Lines 56-60).

Response to Arguments

13. Applicant's arguments and amendments filed January 6, 2009 have been fully considered. The arguments are not persuasive and amendments do not overcome the original art rejection.

See office action above for newly presented limitations anticipated by the prior art.

Conclusion

14. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Cocotis et al. (U.S. Publication Number: 2003/0078965) teaches an output management system and method for enabling printing via wireless device.

15. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

16. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tejal J. Gami whose telephone number is (571) 270-1035. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Albert DeCady can be reached on (571) 272-3819. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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/TJG/